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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Makoto IIKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2872

App. No.: 10/066,703

Examiner:

Filed : February 6, 2002

For : A LENS BARREL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 6,333,825 to HAMASAKI et al., issued on December 25, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/067,399 to IIKAWA et al., entitled "A Varifocal Lens Barrel and a Lens Drive Mechanism", which was filed on February 7, 2002.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Makoto IIKAWA et al.

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March 28, 2002
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